

News Release

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation



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City of Kenai Wildlife Conservation Community Program

KENAI – Bear-resistant garbage containers will be available to residents of the City of Kenai at about one-quarter of the retail cost.

Details of the city's new Wildlife Conservation Community Program will be introduced at an open house at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at the Kenai Visitors & Cultural Center, 11471 Kenai Spur Highway. The City of Kenai and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will host the event

The program is a citywide cooperative effort involving municipal, state and federal agencies, businesses, non-profits and the citizens of the community. The goals are safer neighborhoods for people and our wildlife, better stewardship of wildlife resources, and less agency time spent dealing with nuisance wildlife.

The program is based on a pilot project implemented by the Alaska Audubon and ADF&G, funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The pilot project was geared toward reducing bear problems involving improper waste storage in two subdivisions within Kenai. For two years, property owners within the area were provided free garbage pickup if they agreed to use bear-resistant garbage cans supplied to them. During those two years, there were no calls to ADF&G or the Kenai Police Department regarding negative interactions with bears within the project area, an area that had formerly been plagued with many such problems.

The program won grants of \$90,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Private Landowner Grant and \$38,000 from ConocoPhillips. The money will be administered by the Kenai Peninsula chapter of Safari Club International, a hunting and wildlife conservation club. It will be used to buy highly bear-resistant residential garbage cans, and to provide information to residents on how to live safely in bear country. The cans, which retail for around \$190, will be available for purchase by people living within the City of Kenai for \$50. City garbage ordinances will be strictly enforced.

For more information call the Alaska Department of Fish & Game at 262-9368.

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